

Nautical Chart Introduction

Step #1: Students will familiarize themselves with a black and white copy of the Boston Harbor chart at the front of the class.

Step # 2: Students will color the mainland and the islands with a yellow marker to differentiate the land from the water. The entire area of the city on the left side of the chart need not be shaded solid - a yellow outline of land meeting water is fine.

Step # 3: Students will mark the red, green, and occasional yellow buoys with the appropriate color.

Red and green buoys mark channels, safe, deep water passages through the harbor, "The boat goes between the red and the green."

- Red buoys will always be even numbered; green buoys will always be odd numbered. Buoy numbers are always in quotation marks, e.g. R "2", or G "3", to distinguish them from the other small numbers on the chart which designate water depth.
- Channels are often marked on the chart with dotted lines.
- Yellow buoys mark places for ships to anchor.

Step #4: Orientation: On the expeditions, students will use their charts to find their departure point, route, destination, and designated landmarks.

Step # 5: Measuring distance:

- On the expeditions, each student will have a clipboard for their charts and other work sheets.
- A pencil will be attached to the clipboard by a string. The string will have three red marks.
- The distance between any two red marks is equal to one nautical mile on their chart.